

**Safety Committee
March 9th, 2009
5:00 PM**

Minutes

Call to Order: Mrs. Mershon called the meeting to order at 5:00PM

Roll Call: Present for the meeting today was Mrs. Mershon, Dr. Bender and Mrs. Turner. Also in attendance were Mayor Ebert, Matt Peoples (Public Works) and Carrie Hoover (Public Relations).

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Bender moved to approve the minutes of the January 12th, 2009 meeting. Mrs. Turner seconded the motion.

VOTES **AYES** Mrs. Mershon, Dr. Bender, Mrs. Turner
 NAYS
 Motion carried.

Fred Demkowicz and Andrew Tapalansky asked what, if any, progress has been made with regards to the skate park since they last spoke. They are fielding questions from kids weekly on the status of the skate park. Kids are excited and hopeful that there may be something available to them by this summer.

Mrs. Mershon noted that she would like to bring the issue to the Committee of the Whole before it is decided to spend money on it.

Pended Items:

06-03 Skate Park

Mr. Peoples stated that he attended a Parks & Recreation conference and met with several vendors of skate park materials. He has also been given additional concept plans and price lists. These prices are better than the ones presented in 2008. There is no official site yet, other than the idea of Hanners Park. Picking a site would be a perfect assignment for Committee of the Whole. It is currently still in the concept phase.

Mrs. Mershon stated that Mr. Jarvis has many questions regarding the longevity of use vs. the amount of money spent. Mr. Peoples showed a map of possible location(s). Mrs. Mershon asked about the price. Mr. Peoples stated that the original concept plan was coming in at \$300,000, including the pad. Mr. Peoples has just received more concept plans from a different vendor and they are priced from \$122,000 to \$95,000. Discussion ensued. This will go on the Committee of the Whole agenda.

New Items for Discussion:

09-02 Dr. Richard Boone, Pastor Faith UMC regarding Playground Equipment vandalism behind 100 S Washington Street.

Rev. Boone noted that they currently use the building at 100 S Washington St for before and after school care. They have updated and made the play equipment compliant with state regulations for younger kids at their own expense. They have been asked by the school to remove the equipment (even after this updating) because of the activities of older youth and young adults involving drugs and alcohol there. He is asking that we work toward coming up with a better solution to the problem.

Mrs. Mershon asked what he thought would be a solution. Rev. Boone stated that he would just suggest increasing the patrol of the area. Deputy Dixon stated that he can only remember one call from back there in the last year or so and it was on an adult, swinging and smoking a cigarette. Mayor Ebert stated that taking out the equipment wouldn't stop adults from going there and smoking. Mrs. Mershon concurred that it isn't the equipment that is the draw for people back there, it is the location. Rev. Boone added that the teachers do frequently find drug paraphernalia and evidence of drinking back there, but they rarely call the sheriff's to report it.

Mrs. Mershon stated they need to contact the School Board and get more information about the reasons behind their request. Mayor Ebert added that increasing the lighting in that area would cost thousands of dollars that the School Board may not be willing to spend. Further discussion ensued. It was decided that this is an issue best left as discussion between the School Board and Rev. Boone.

Mayor Ebert, however, stated that we can send out a letter to the residents on Washington Street and make them aware of the activity and encourage them to call into the Fairfield Sheriff's office, even if it is an anonymous call.

09-03 Canal Winchester Youth Support Team Banners and Signs - Resolution needed to allow sign and banner placement as well as waive fees. Zoning Code does not permit off –premise signs

Rev. Boone stated that a coalition of churches and community organizations have formed a Canal Winchester Youth Support Team. We listen to issues presented by parents and decided to help work on drug and alcohol abuse by youth. "The Parents who Host Lose the Most" campaign will kick off soon. There will be banners, yard signs, mailings to parents in the school systems, as well as fact cards that will be put on corsages and pizza boxes around Prom time.

He is looking for clarification of the zoning code and approval for the yard signs and banners to be put on some village and residential property from March 22nd to April 21st. Dr. Bender moved to bring to full council a resolution to allow sign and banner placement, as well as to waive fees. Mrs. Turner seconded the motion.

VOTES AYES Mrs. Mershon, Dr. Bender, Mrs. Turner
NAYS

Motion carried.

Dr. Bender will sponsor the Resolution.

Fairfield County Sheriff's Report:

No report at this time.

Community Affairs Report:

Ms. Hoover stated that pool memberships, pool parties and swim lessons go on sale on May 26th- 29th from 5-8pm. The pool will open Sat. May 30th with limited hours until school is out on Sat., June 6th, when it will open for regular hours.

The pool will be coming into compliance with the Virginia Graham Baker Act for pool drains. It may be quite expensive. We won't know the total until the assessment is finished.

Mrs. Mershon asked about having a dog day on the day after the pool closes. Ms. Hoover stated that she would contact Kim about it and set it up for this year.

Old/New Business:

None at this time.

Adjournment

Mrs. Turner moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Bender seconded the motion.

VOTES AYES Mrs. Mershon, Dr. Bender, Mrs. Turner
NAYS

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:44p.m.